

CCL: Bilingual/Bilingue

For Canadians, this has been the year of the referendum, the year when our compatriots in Quebec decided whether they wanted to depatriate. For those of us who are concerned with Canadian children's literature, the question had special poignancy. The presence of two languages, two literatures has given our children a unique experience.

Canadian children learn "Frère Jacques" and "Ring Around the Rosie" at the same time. They sing "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" at camp fires as lustily as "Alouette". History lessons begin with Cartier and Champlain as well as with Cabot and Franklin. And as the children grow older we make sure we include works by Gabrielle Roy in reading lists along with Farley Mowat; for senior students, Mordecai Richler appears beside Roch Carrier. As Canadian children increase their knowledge of each other's worlds, we increase our hope for a future understanding among adults.

Last spring, at a conference in Montreal, scholars with special interest in Canadian literature (members of the Association for Canadian and Québec Literatures) presented papers on aspects of children's literature. *CCL* is pleased to present versions of several of these papers in this issue. The double story of early publications, of individual concerns, and of present emphasis marks our unique national quality. Each of the two official languages offers a cultural enrichment to all Canadians. In the final paper of the group Michelle Provost gives a full "best-choice" list of publications in French, which will interest anglophone teachers and parents concerned with French immersion courses, and will also be of value to teachers and librarians in Québec.

One of the papers from the Montreal ACQL Conference not included here is a study by Mary Rubio of a book for children, published in the 1940's by the great Canadian author Frederick Philip Grove. We are saving this article for a later issue, which will offer text of the "lost" Grove novel, the commentary, and a full budget of reviews of books for Canadian children — in French and English.

To lead off this bilingual issue, we present a commentary, by Mme. Paule Daveluy, on a new publishing venture which will make English Canadian books available to Francophone children. This parallels the efforts of several Anglophone publishers to bring out works by Quebecois authors.

Some of our reviewers remind us of the riches in both official languages; others take us beyond the bilingual to a celebration of the multiple cultures enriching the lives of Canadian children by a multiplicity of myths, songs, and fictions.